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## Church Council Discloses Gifts From 3 Funds Linked to C.I.A.

*Calls Financial Aid 'Minor'—  
Says It Had No Knowledge  
Agency Was Involved*

By GEORGE DUGAN  
Special to The New York Times

CHICAGO, Feb. 21.—The National Council of Churches disclosed here today that in three instances it had received "minor" financial assistance from foundations allegedly linked with the Central Intelligence Agency.

Dr. R. H. Edwin Espy, general secretary of the council, said the church body had had no knowledge "at any time" that any of the gifts "may have had any links with C.I.A. involvement."

He promised the "fullest cooperation" with "any and all Federal efforts" to investigate the matter.

The National Council is a federation of 34 of the major Protestant and Eastern Orthodox denominations in this country. Their total membership is about 42 million.

According to Dr. Espy, a thoroughgoing search of council records disclosed that the Foundation for Youth and Student Affairs, which has been accused of links with the intelligence agency, contributed about \$250 in 1965 toward a conference of the National Student Christian Federation, a council-related organization.

### Other Gifts Listed

Both this year and last, he said, the National Council received approximately \$2,000 from the J. M. Kaplan Fund. The money was earmarked for the church body's antipoverty program.

For four years before 1965, Dr. Espy said, the David and Winfield Baird Foundation gave about \$3,500 annually to the council for "direct relief" of migrant workers and American Indians. The Baird gift was ended two years ago.

An official of the World Council of Churches, the Rev. Dr. Philip Johnson, said his organization had been receiving \$600 annually for several years from the Baird Foundation for work with refugee children. He said in an interview that he knew of no other gifts linked with the intelligence agency.

Dr. Espy made the disclosures in a statement to the executive committee of the council's general board, its policy-making arm. In addition to the general board, the board began a four-day meeting here today at the Pick-Congress Hotel.

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Dr. H. H. Edwin Espy, general secretary of the council, struck back at critics who last Friday intimated that the council was losing its liberal soul, by reducing lay participation in its committees and departments.

The critics, a group of liberals headed by Charles T. Douds, Pennsylvania Labor mediator, complained that a proposal to supplement the council's 177-member commission on church and economic life with a 25-member committee would strip it of much of its effectiveness and its lay leadership.

### Liberals Win First Round

Mr. Douds, a former regional director in New York of the National Labor Relations Board, characterized the proposal as more than a "bureaucratic move." It is an issue between the conservatives and the liberals. The liberals won the first round in their dispute. On Saturday, at a closed meeting, the council's Division of Christian Life and Mission authorized its department of social justice to determine the membership and size of the committee in the light of the liberal complaint.

Dr. Espy said the week-to-week record of board and committee meetings "roundly" refutes the criticism that the council is run by staff members.

Dr. Espy commented on three recent "breakthroughs" in the liberal outlook of the council.

These, he said, are the establishment of a department of ministry, the successful fight to have the Office of Economic Opportunity again

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